

Protective Gear Reimbursement Program

In November, 2005, the Department of the Army began reimbursing both current and former Soldiers who purchased body armor and certain other protective, health and safety equipment for use in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. To qualify as a reimbursable purchase, the purchase must have been made after 10 September 2001, and before 2 April 2006.

What equipment qualifies for reimbursement? To qualify for reimbursement, privately-purchased equipment must fall within one of the approved categories of equipment. The approved categories include various types and components of protective body armor, as well as a number of other protective, health and safety items. A complete list of the categories of reimbursable items is attached below.

Who's a proper claimant? The Army will provide reimbursement for qualifying purchases made by either a Soldier or by another (such as a parent or spouse) on behalf of a Soldier. In all instances, however, the Soldier for whom the equipment was purchased (or the survivor of a deceased Soldier) must file the reimbursement claim.

How and to whom should a claim be filed? Current active duty or active reserve component Soldiers should file claims with the first field grade commander in the Soldier's current chain of command. Former Soldiers and survivors of deceased Soldiers may file by mail directly to the U.S. Army Claims Service (USARCS) at the address provided in block 12 of the claims form, DD Form 2902. Claims must include the following:

- A completed and signed DD Form 2902, a printable copy of which is attached below;
- A copy of official documentation noting the Soldier's deployment in support of one of the Operations (such as deployment orders or a DD Form 214 noting deployment);
- Copies of all available receipts or other proofs of purchase for the items claimed; and
- Turn-in of the equipment for which the claimant seek reimbursement (for those filing by mail to USARCS, shipping costs for turn-in of equipment will be reimbursed and can be noted on the DD Form 2902). Claimants who no longer have the equipment should provide a written statement explaining why the equipment is unavailable for turn-in.

How is the amount of reimbursement determined? Claimants who provide proof of purchase will be reimbursed the full purchase price plus shipping costs for each item, up to \$1,100 for any single item. Absent proof of purchase, the claimant will be reimbursed at a rate pre-established by the Department of Defense for the category of item claimed. These rates are noted on the item list attached below.

Is there a deadline for filing claims? Yes. Claimants must file their claims by 3 October 2006.

How is payment made? Claims are processed through USARCS for payment from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Current soldiers receive direct deposits to their normal pay accounts, and all others receive checks directly from DFAS.

Where can I get additional information or ask questions? Attached below is written "Guidance" to commanders and claimants concerning how to file and process reimbursement claims. Claimants or commanders who have questions concerning the program can also contact MAJ Paul Cucuzzella, Project Officer, USARCS, at paul.cucuzzella@cmh1.ftmeade.army.mil or at (301) 677-7009 ext. 431.

1. To file a claim for reimbursement download the DD_2902 file.
2. To see a list of items authorized for reimbursement click the List of Shortage Items1 file.
3. For additional information click the Protective Gear Reimbursement Guidance file.